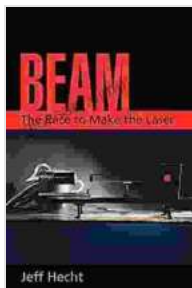


Beam: The Race to Make the Laser

In the 1950s, a group of brilliant scientists embarked on a race to make the laser, a groundbreaking invention that would revolutionize science, technology, and warfare.



Beam: The Race to Make the Laser by Jeff Hecht

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 5842 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 284 pages
Lending	: Enabled



The laser is a device that emits a concentrated beam of light. It is used in a wide variety of applications, including barcode scanners, laser pointers, and medical devices.

The race to make the laser was a fierce competition between the United States and the Soviet Union. Both countries poured millions of dollars into research and development, and each side recruited the best and brightest scientists.

In the end, it was Theodore Maiman of Hughes Research Laboratories who won the race. On July 7, 1960, Maiman fired the first successful laser. His laser was a ruby laser, which emitted a beam of red light.

The invention of the laser was a major breakthrough in science and technology. It has led to the development of numerous new technologies, and it has had a profound impact on our lives.

Beam: The Race to Make the Laser is the untold story of the race to make the laser. It is a fascinating and inspiring story that sheds light on the power of human ingenuity.

The Cast of Characters

The race to make the laser was a team effort, but there were a few key individuals who played a pivotal role.

- **Theodore Maiman:** The American physicist who fired the first successful laser.
- **Charles Townes:** The American physicist who invented the maser, the precursor to the laser.
- **Arthur Schawlow:** The American physicist who co-invented the laser with Townes.
- **Nikolay Basov:** The Soviet physicist who also co-invented the laser.
- **Aleksandr Prokhorov:** The Soviet physicist who also co-invented the laser.

The Race

The race to make the laser began in the early 1950s. At the time, scientists were working on a new type of device called a maser. Masers emit a concentrated beam of microwaves, and scientists believed that it should be possible to build a similar device that emitted light.

The first breakthrough came in 1954, when Townes and Schawlow published a paper describing the basic principles of a laser. Their paper inspired a number of scientists to start working on building a laser.

In 1960, Maiman fired the first successful laser. His laser was a ruby laser, which emitted a beam of red light. Maiman's laser was a major breakthrough, and it quickly led to the development of other types of lasers.

The race to make the laser was a fierce competition, but it was also a cooperative effort. Scientists from all over the world shared their knowledge and ideas, and they helped to make the laser a reality.

The Impact of the Laser

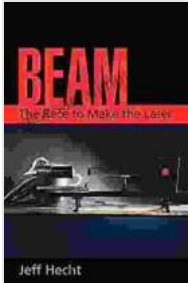
The invention of the laser has had a profound impact on science, technology, and warfare.

- **Science:** Lasers have been used to make a wide range of scientific discoveries, including the discovery of new elements and the development of new medical treatments.
- **Technology:** Lasers are used in a wide variety of technologies, including barcode scanners, laser pointers, and medical devices.
- **Warfare:** Lasers are used in a variety of military applications, including laser-guided bombs and laser-based defense systems.

The laser is a powerful tool that has revolutionized our world. It is a testament to the power of human ingenuity.

Beam: The Race to Make the Laser is a fascinating and inspiring story about the power of human ingenuity. It is a story that shows how a group of

brilliant scientists can come together to solve a seemingly impossible problem. The laser is a testament to the power of human curiosity and the pursuit of knowledge.



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